Washermen of Andhra Pradesh under SC/ST category

1047. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether washermen of Andhra Pradesh have represented to include their category in the list f Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the action taken to revise the list of SCs and STs to improve the plight of washermen community of that State?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Rehabilitation of families of child workers in Maharashtra

1048. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are extending benefits under various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes to the families of child workers with a view to rehabilitate them in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) number of children withdrawn from work in the State during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise and the details of their rehabilitation;

(d) whether any monthly stipend is being given to the child workers in the State who stand withdrawn from work; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The National Child Labour Project Scheme is currently under implementation in 11 child labour endemic states including Maharashtra. Under the scheme the children working in hazardous occupations are withdrawn from work and put in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health check and stipends @ Rs. 100/- per child per month. These projects are fully funded by the Central Government. According to the guidelines issued by the Central Government the parents of the working children are expected to be covered, on priority through the existing poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes with a view to improving their economic conditions to enable them to send their children to school instead of work. Two National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the state of Maharashtra in the districts of Thane and Sholapur for rehabilitation of 3677 working children through 74 special schools. As per the information received, 1200 children have been enrolled in 24 special schools in the state during the current year.

Non-payment of wages and default in payment of statutory dues to employees of PSUs

1049. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the role of the Ministry of Labour on the issue of non-payment of wages and default in payment of statutory dues to employees of public sector undertakings like NTC, IDPL, NJMC and JCT?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The issue of non-payment of wages and other statutory dues to the employees of certain Public Sector Undertakings has been raised repeatedly by several Members of Parliament and trade unions in different formal/informal forums. The Ministry of Labour has already taken up the matter with concerned administrative Ministries as well as the Minitry of Finance so that funds are made available in time for payment of salaries and wages and other statutory dues to the workers. In this perspective the Union Labour Minister has also proposed to hold a discussion with the concerned administrative Ministries and Ministry of Finance to resolve the issue.

Multi-Lateral Investment Agreement

1050. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's firm 'no' to any discussion on Multilateral Investment